

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 6, 2009

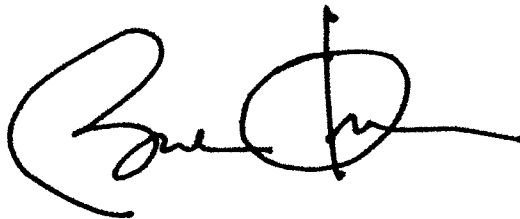
Dear Friends:

Today I send you my congratulations as you celebrate a milestone in the history of the American University in Cairo. The opening of a new campus marks the beginning of a new era for one of the Middle East's great academic institutions, and a new era for the Egyptian-United States partnership that is symbolized by the history of this university.

For ninety years, Americans and Egyptians have studied and researched together, discovering a common purpose and shared values in their diverse heritage and aspirations. With the new campus, more young people will benefit from this unique educational experience. They will have access to world-class facilities and innovative teaching that will produce the science and understanding to improve all of our lives.

I am honored to affirm the commitment of the American people as your partner and friend in this endeavor. I do so with the belief that our work together is vital and necessary. As Americans and Egyptians representing many different backgrounds, philosophies, and faiths, we can and should enjoy a productive and close relationship. We can and should work toward common goals and interests. Together, we can and should work for peace, better educational opportunities for our children, and more opportunities for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large, stylized initial "B" and a circular flourish.